(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARATHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project report for development of Secondary level Hospitals, one 50 bedded T.B. hospital, 10 base hospitals and one cyclone relief training centre in Andhra Pradesh, at an estimated cost of Rs. 236.70 crores, was received from the State Government for posing for World Bank assistance. The proposal has been preliminarily discussed with the World Bank and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have since submitted a revised proposal for Rs. 322 crores covering all the secondary level hospitals. An identification mission of the World Bank visited Hyderabad in June, 1992 in this behalf.

(c) The World Bank has accepted the proposal in principle.

(d) and (e) The World Bank has asked for further detailed information regarding the approach and strategies proposed by Government of Andhra Pradesh for strengthening and upgrading secondary level hospitals, which is under the consideration of the State Government.

Eradication of Blindness in Andhra Pradesh

17. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal regarding eradication of blindness in the State with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that World Bank has accepted the above proposal;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whot are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The proposol of the Government of Andhra Pradesh *inter-alia* envisages provision of District Mobile Units, increase of ophthalmic bed strength in District hospitals, upgradation of PHCs, health education, grant-in-aid for Voluntary Organisation and strengthening of State Opthalmic Cells etc.

(c) to (e) The proposal, which is still at a preliminary stage, is still under process and has to be revised according to the requirements for such externally aided projects.

Population Growth

18. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the annual rate of population growth in the years 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that population growth is in very high order and what effective steps are being taken by Government to control the rapid growth of population; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to win over the religious sentiments of an appreciable part of a section of population against family planning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The Natural Growth Rate of population is obtained as the difference between the estimates of birth and death rates as obtained from Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India. Based on these estimates, the annual Natural Growth Rate of population for the years 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 & 1990 (latest year for which information is so far available) work out to 2.15%, 2.13%, 2.05%, 2.03% and 2.05% respectively.

(b) and (c) The Growth Rate still remains on a higher side because of a relatively

greater decline in death rate as compared to birth rate.

To control the rapid growth of population in the country an Action Plan has already been evolved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is being operationalised. This has been endorsed by the Health and Family Welfare Ministers of States and Union Territories in January, 1992. The Action Plan highlights the need for evolving a national consensus in support of the Family Welfare Programme and to obtain the willing participation of all sections of the society. Its key features include improving the quality and outreach of family welfare services, differential strategy for special focus on 90 poor performing districts (Birth rate of 39 per thousand population and above as per the 1981 Census), developing a mechanism to make available funds to States/Union Territories on the basis of reduction of actual birth rate, increasing the coverage of younger age couples through vigorous promotion of spacing methods, introducing new contraceptives and improving the quality of contraceptives, strengthening family welfare schemes in urban areas especially in slum pockets, revitalising training activities of medical/para-medical personnel with emphasis on motivational and counselling aspects, sustaining the good work done under the Universal Immunisation programme and strengthening of other interventions for Maternal and Child Health Care, reorientation of information, education and communication efforts to focus on the quality of life issues and inter-personnel communication, involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations in a big way to promote active community participation in the programme, gearing up of the implementation machinery in the States/Union Territories and evolving high-level inter-sectoral coordination mechanism at the National, State and District levels.

The National Family Welfare Programme is being implemented on a voluntary basis among the entire population of the country regardless of their caste and religion.

Downgradation of Posts by AIIMS

19. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain senior posts in the AIIMS were advertised four times and, finally, when the candidates were selected by the selection committee, its recommendations were not only turned down by the Governing Body but the posts were downgraded and offered to juniors ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for advertising the posts four times when these were to be downgraded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) ; (a) and (b) The advertisements for filling up the posts in AIIMS were repeated so that wide publicity was given on an All India basis and new people got an opportunity to apply for the posts. The Governing Body of the Institute have devided that in future all appointments to the level of Associate Professor and Additional Professor would be made by promotion. However, as posts had already been advertised a number of times and the candidates had gone through the process of selection, it was decided to complete the process as legitimate expectations had been raised. However, to ensure that no injustice is done to internal candidates, it was decided that the appointments under the Assessment Promotion Scheme would be effected as per due date which was prior to the date of selection for those who were selected by lateral entry.

Completion of I. G. R. I. M. S.

20. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indira Gandhi Regional Institute for Medical Sciences at Meghalaya sanctioned by the